

4.7 RECREATION

This section focuses on the potential effect of implementation of the DMP Update on the city's recreational facilities and demand for services. A brief description of the recreational resources in Carlsbad is provided, followed by an impact analysis of the DMP Update project components.

4.7.1 Existing Conditions

4.7.1.1 Applicable Policies

The following plans, policies, and regulations address recreational uses within Carlsbad and are applicable to implementation of the proposed DMP Update components (program and project levels). These include the General Plan Parks and Recreation Element (City of Carlsbad 1994a) and the General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (City of Carlsbad 1994b).

General Plan Parks and Recreation Element

The Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan establishes the foundation for the current operation and future development of park facilities and recreation programs (City of Carlsbad 1994b). This element designates three categories of parks, as defined below:

Community Parks – Leisure facilities, generally 20 to 50 acres in size, designed to serve the recreational needs of several neighborhoods and encourage use from the nearby vicinity on a daily basis. Primary access is vehicular.

Special Use Areas – Local facilities, between 1 and 5 acres, that typically contain one or two activity types (passive or active), including swimming, tennis, or racquetball facilities; meeting halls; athletic complexes; off-leash dog parks; skateboard parks; play lots; or picnic and interpretive walk areas. Access can be vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian.

Special Resource Areas – Local amenities typically encompassing more than 100 acres, with either a citywide or regionally significant quality (e.g., beaches). Access can be vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian.

The Parks and Recreation Element, first prepared in 1994 and amended in 2003, also anticipates the future development of 12 new park projects. Many of these facilities have now been

completed. Park development and recreational programming would be consistent with the General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (City of Carlsbad 1994a).

General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element

The City's General Plan designates recreational land uses as Open Space for Outdoor Recreation (City of Carlsbad 1994a). The City considers this type of open space designation as a Category 1 (highest priority) for future open space planning. This designation includes Community Parks, Special Use Areas, and Special Resource Areas, as designated in the General Plan Parks and Recreation Element described above. Trails are also considered a Category 1 priority for open space planning. Facilities Standards have been established for each category of park to ensure that recreational facilities meet the needs of Carlsbad residents, employees, and tourists. Open space areas in relation to the City's HMP preserve areas is discussed in Chapter 4.1 (Land Use) of this document.

4.7.1.2 Program Level

Carlsbad offers a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities and other recreational areas that are open to the general public (City of Carlsbad 2006, 2007), including:

- 39 parks, totaling 295 acres
- ~~490~~625 acres of designated open space
- ~~17.27~~ miles of public recreational trails
- 48 miles of bike lanes
- 1 California State Beach
- Over 6 miles of coastal and public beaches

Major parks and recreational facilities in the city include amenities such as lighted baseball fields, outdoor basketball courts, picnic areas, lighted tennis courts, soccer fields, and gymnasium centers. Carlsbad State Beach, located along Pacific Coast Highway approximately 1.6 miles south of Palomar Airport Road, features a large bluff-top campground with public access to the beach. Trails are located throughout open space areas of the city, including around the lagoons. Personal water craft, powerboats, and passive vessels are permitted for use in Agua Hedionda Lagoon, although anchoring is prohibited. Currently, fishing is allowed only in the designated "Passive Use" area in the lower east end of Agua Hedionda Lagoon and along South Coast Highway at the western end of Buena Vista Lagoon.

4.7.1.3 Project Level

No city parks or other recreational facilities currently exist within or adjacent to Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks (project components B and BN) within the proposed project boundary. However, a city trail system is proposed northeast of the project area, which would run north/south to the east of the existing BJB Basin. The Rancho Carlsbad residential community does have a neighborhood pool within development located approximately 300 feet from the proposed work area.

4.7.2 Significance Criteria

The DMP Update would result in a potentially significant impact to recreation in Carlsbad if it would:

- result in adverse impacts to recreational opportunities in the city.

4.7.3 Impact Analysis

4.7.3.1 Program Level

Proposed DMP Update components are intended to provide storm water conveyance and flood control for planned development in Carlsbad and would not involve the construction of recreational components or improvements to existing or proposed recreational facilities. Therefore, proposed DMP Update components would not affect the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities and would not generate demand for such facilities. Some proposed PLDA facilities would be located within or adjacent to existing open space and park areas (see Section 4.1 [Land Use]). Construction of proposed facilities in these areas could temporarily impact recreational uses within open space and parks. Potential impacts to recreational areas such as parking or facility use during construction of DMP Update components would be short term, and alternative recreational facilities within the city would remain available for use. Existing public trail systems would remain open during construction or adequate alternative trail routes would remain available. If necessary, alternative routes and detours would be identified during project-specific design, in coordination with the City Park Planning Department. Potential impacts to recreational opportunities within the city would be less than significant.

4.7.3.2 Operation and Maintenance

Proposed operation and maintenance activities would occur at existing or proposed DMP facilities and would not involve the construction of recreational components or improvements to existing or proposed recreational facilities. Therefore, proposed operation and maintenance activities would not affect the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Some proposed operation and maintenance activities could occur within or adjacent to existing open space and park areas and could temporarily impact recreational uses within open space and parks. Potential impacts to recreational areas such as parking or facility use during operation and maintenance activities would be short term, and alternative recreational facilities within the city would remain available for use. Existing public trail systems would remain open during operation and maintenance activities or adequate alternative trail routes would remain available. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

4.7.3.3 Project Level

PLDA Project Components

The proposed drainage improvements in Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks (PLDA components B and BN) would not involve the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No state, regional, or local parks or recreational facilities currently exist within or adjacent to the proposed project. The proposed trail system northeast of the project area would not be affected by construction for improvements to the basin. The Rancho Carlsbad residential community has a neighborhood pool located approximately 300 feet from the proposed work area. However, the pool is not located within the project construction area and use of the facility by residents would not be altered by implementation of the proposed drainage improvements. Potential impacts to recreational opportunities would be less than significant.

Non-PLDA Project Components

Non-PLDA components B and BN involve long-term channel maintenance in Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks, respectively, and would require periodic inspections; sediment, debris, and vegetation removal; and repair of eroded surfaces associated with drainage and bridge appurtenances. Long-term channel maintenance would occur in existing channels and would not affect the use of the existing pool facility mentioned above or other recreational facilities. Long-term channel maintenance would not involve existing recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, long-term channel maintenance

activities proposed for non-PLDA project components B and BN would not affect recreational facilities or services. Potential impacts to recreational opportunities would be less than significant.

4.7.4 Significance of Impacts

4.7.4.1 Program Level

Direct or indirect impacts to recreation from proposed program level DMP Update components would be temporary, localized, and less than significant. No long-term impacts would occur.

4.7.4.2 Operation and Maintenance

Direct or indirect impacts to recreation from implementation proposed operation and maintenance activities would be temporary, localized, and less than significant. No long-term impacts would occur.

4.7.4.3 Project Level

No direct or indirect impacts to recreation from proposed project level DMP Update components are anticipated to occur.

4.7.5 Mitigation Measures

4.7.5.1 Program Level

Impacts from implementation of proposed program level DMP Update components would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

4.7.5.2 Operation and Maintenance

Impacts from proposed operation and maintenance activities would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

4.7.5.3 Project Level

No impacts from proposed project level DMP Update components were identified; therefore, no mitigation would be required.